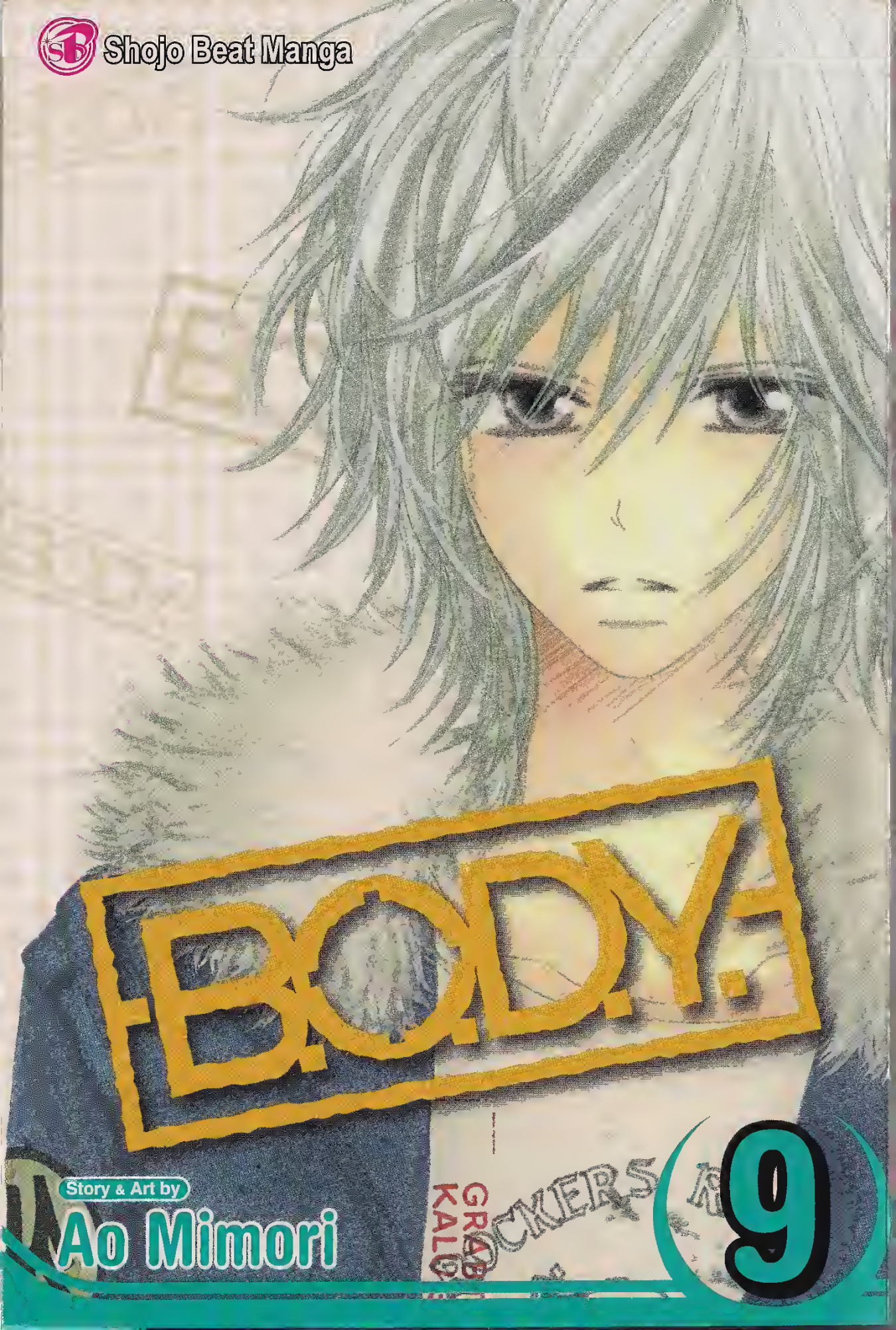
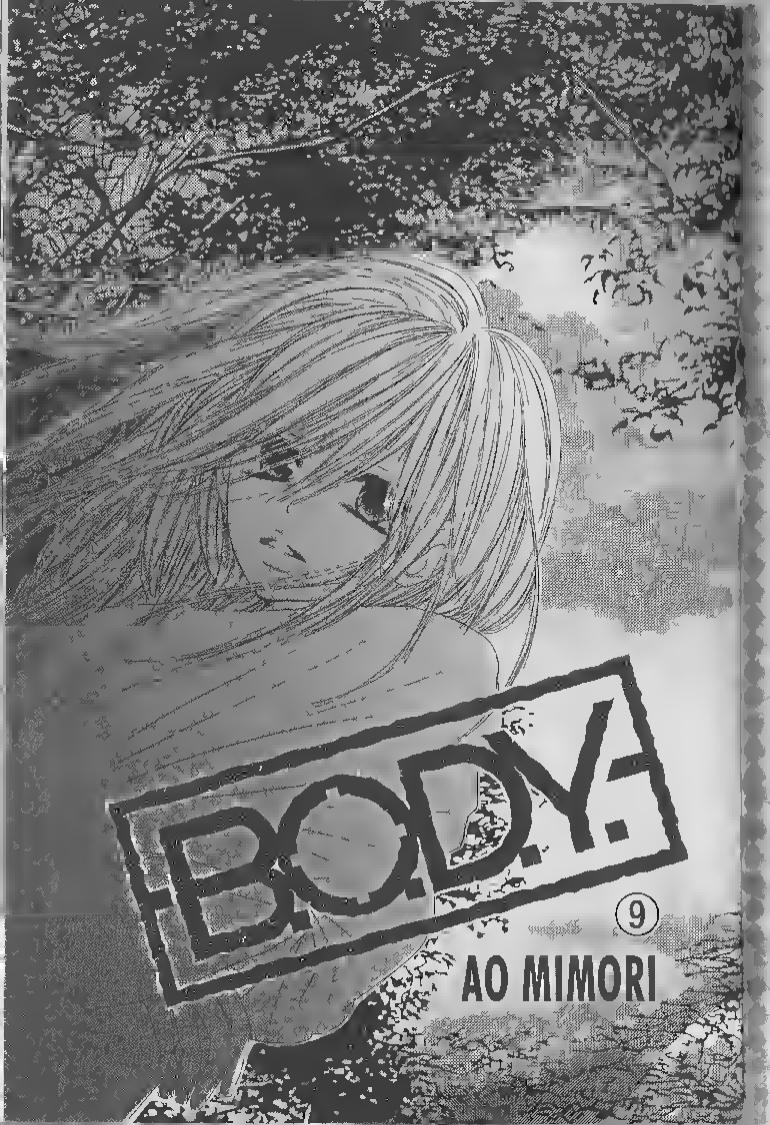

Shojo Beat Manga
B.O.D.Y.
Story & Art by
Ao Mimori
9



Contents

B.O.D.Y. 3

Bonus Section..... 171

The Story Thus Far...

Ryoko falls hard for Ryunosuke, the quiet, bespectacled cutie who sits next to her in class. Then she learns that he moonlights as a host—a guy who dates women for money! Soft-spoken bookworm by day, aggressive ladies' man by night. Ryu may be more than the inexperienced Ryoko can handle. But she can't seem to get him out of her head... or her heart.

Ryunosuke has to take after-school classes to keep from dropping out, which leaves Ryoko alone in the evenings. Kurama, a shy guy with a crush on Ryoko, invites her to a club to hear his band. Ryoko decides not to go, but Kurama's friend, Shu, forces her onto his motorcycle. Meanwhile, Miss Izumi finds Kurama's invitation, shows it to Ryunosuke and offers to take him to the club to investigate. They arrive just in time to see Kurama grab the mic and ask Ryoko to be his girlfriend!

PLEASE BE MY GIRLFRIEND.
WAAAAH
Nice one Kura
YA HEAR THAT, RYON-RYON?
GASP
Im so proud..
KURA...
KURAMA...
KURAMA!
...
KURAMA!
Wait!

She's hot!
You can do it, Kanji!
IN THE WINGS
I DIDN'T SAY THAT STUFF...
I REALLY MEANT IT.
'CAUSE THEY EGGED ME ON.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
Woooo

NO WAY!!
TUP
So many people...
But there's nowhere to run.
RYON-RYON!
COME ON! Let's go!
EEK!
I know him.
HUH?
COME ON UP HERE!!
Ontaye!
NO WAY!
Yeah! Ha ha ha!
HEY...
EXCUSE ME!
RYON-RYON COMING THROUGH!
Out of the way!
YANK
?!
WOO!
HERE SHE IS.
Hey!
There she is!

WAH
WHO'S SHOVING?
Knock it off!
WAH
SHUT UP! OUTTA MY WAY!
WHAT?
MOVE!
THAT VOICE...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'm scared!
What the hell dude
OW!

I WANT YOU...TO BE MY GIRL-FRIEND.
Girlfriend
Say no!
I'd go out with him!
Girlfriend
Girlfriend
UM...
I...
I DON'T...
OW, MAN!

GRRR
!
ARE YOU...
her boyfriend?
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
TUT
JUST GET OFF THE STAGE.
HUH?
OH.
OKAY...
WHY'S HE HERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

RYUNO-SUKE?
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
NO WAY...
WAIT A SEC.
SHIIING
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

DON'T TOUCH HER.
UM KURAMA...
TAK
I.
YANK
!!
WHAP
YOU DON'T NEED AN ANSWER FROM HER.
SHE'S SEEING ME.

I'M...
NOT DONE TALKING TO HER.
WHAT?!
YANK
KURAMA...
GIVE HER A CHANCE TO ANSWER ME.

I SAID MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO SURE OF YOURSELF.
SHU! Step off
LET THE GIRL SPEAK.
You tell him, Shu!
Woot!
Yeah asshole!
Whoa!
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?
RYU!
YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME?
YOU SAID HE DOESN'T NEED AN ANSWER...
...BUT MAYBE YOU'RE JUST SCARED SHE'S GONNA SAY YES.

WHAT DO I DO?
AFRAID OF WHAT SHE'D SAY?
WUP
YOU DON'T NEED AN ANSWER FROM HER.
SHU...
HUH?
RYUNOSUKE HEARD HIM ASK ME OUT.

You okay?
YOU...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT HIM!
IT WAS YOU GUYS WHO PICKED A FIGHT.
ARE WE DONE HERE?
HMPH
WAIT!
AH
RYUNOSUKE!
SHU!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
Shu
Eek!
HUH?
SHU
RYU.
LET'S JUST GO.
POW

STOP IT, RYUNO-SUKE.
TOK
I'VE GOTTA STOP THIS!
NO...

STOP ...
POW
CLINK

IZUMI-CHAN?
THAT'S ENOUGH !!

SWAT
LET ME TAKE A LOOK..
DON'T TOUCH IT!
I'M FINE...
YOU'RE BLEEDING!
HMPH
I'M ALL RIGHT.
LET'S JUST GET OUTTA HERE.
RYUNOSUKE...
...
UM, OKAY.
UM, WHO ARE YOU?
PAF
Everybody cool down!
WAP
WAP
The hell?
?!
WHO'S SHE?
WHAT IF SOMEBODY HAD CALLED THE POLICE?
Whoa
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
LOOK AT THE SCENE YOU GUYS HAVE CAUSED!
IF ANYONE IS HURT, PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE
Sorry, dude!
AND PLEASE DO NOT THROW THINGS ON STAGE.
HA HA HA
WE DON'T MIND YOU HAVING FUN, BUT FIGHTING IS NOT ALLOWED
AHEM
THIS IS THE CLUB SPEAKING
Man, that was awesome
RYU!
ARE YOU OKAY?

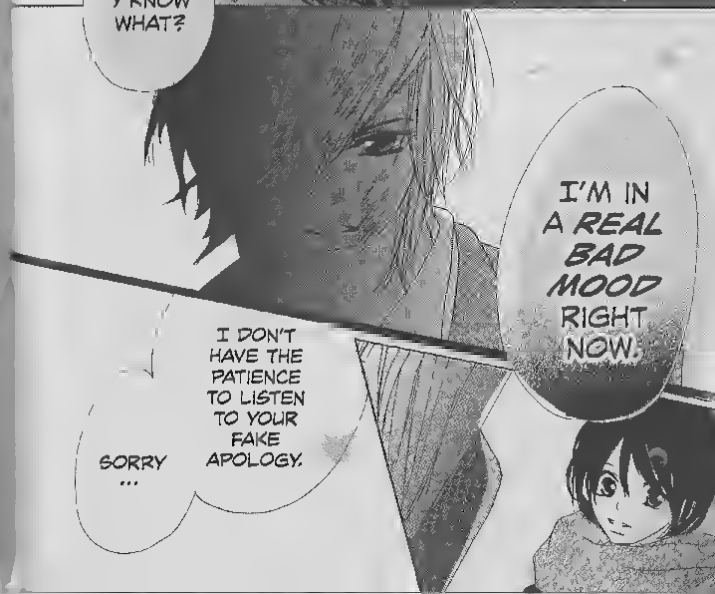
I WANT YOU TO BE MY GIRL FRIEND
AND WHY WOULDN'T HE BE..
...AFTER SEEING WHAT HAPPENED?
ACTUALLY ...
...WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE?
I'M SORRY, RYU.
RYUNO-SUKE'S...
WHAT DO I DO?
...SUPER ANGRY.
...
WHAT A PIMP.
Leaving with two babes
Ow..

IF I HADN'T TAKEN YOU THERE...

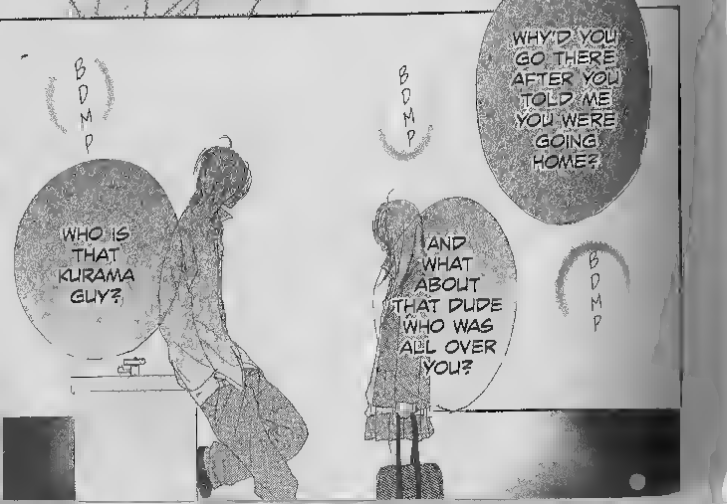
WHAT?

I'M REALLY SORR

Y'KNOW WHAT?



WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
BDMP

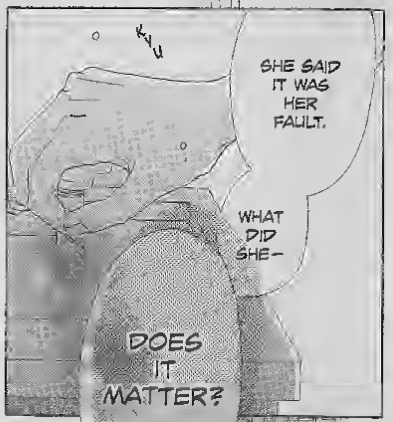

BDMP
WHO IS THAT KURAMA GUY?
BDMP
WHY'D YOU GO THERE AFTER YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING HOME?
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT DUDE WHO WAS ALL OVER YOU?
BDMP

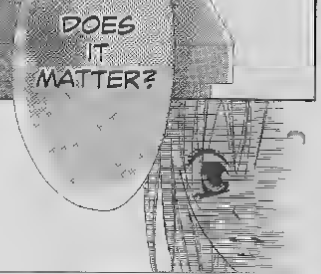
AND WITH IZUMI-CHAN?
...

RYUNOSUKE... WHY WERE YOU AT THE CLUB?

...

HUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?


SHE SAID IT WAS HER FAULT.
WHAT DID SHE—


DOES IT MATTER?

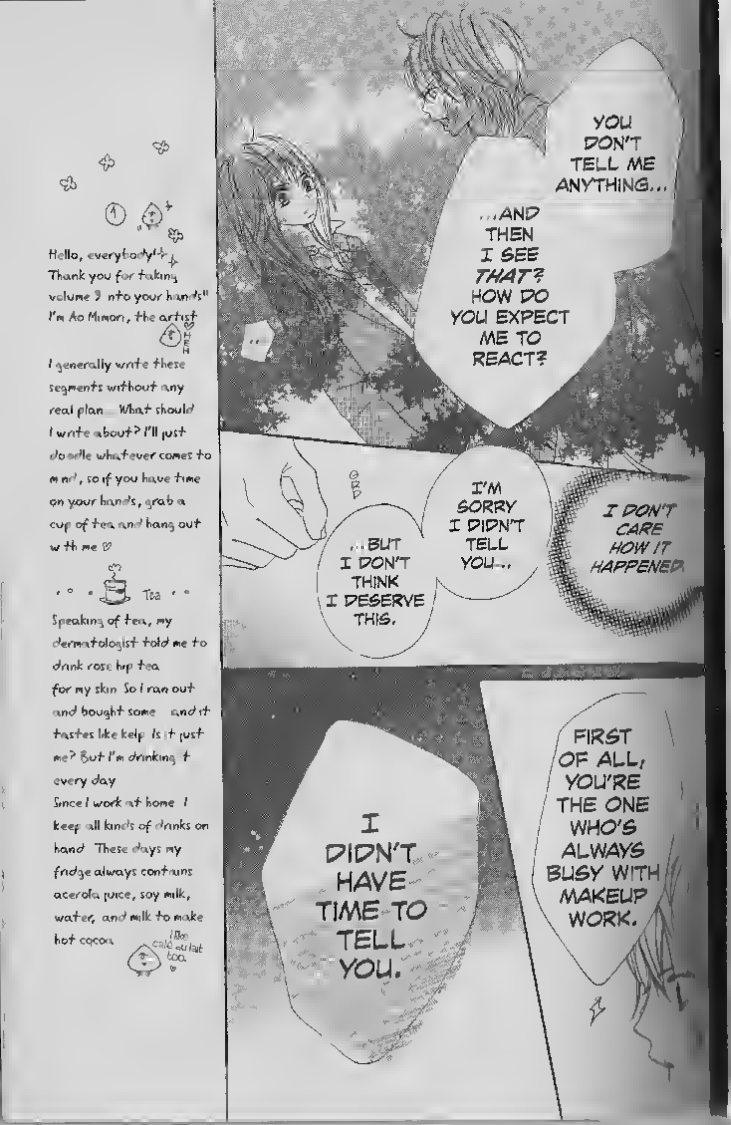
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT...
THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON?
BUT...
...THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON, OKAY?
I TOLD HIM I HAD A BOYFRIEND.

THEN WHY'D YOU GO TO HIS SHOW?
Of course not!
NO!
?
...GO ONSTAGE, LET HIM HIT ON YOU...
YOU GO TO HIS SHOW...
!
BECAUSE

WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH HIM?
OH CRUD.

JUST THE OTHER DAY.
WE RIDE THE SAME BUS...
...SO WE KINDA KNOW EACH OTHER.
WHEN?

I HAVEN'T TOLD RYUNO-SUKE...
...ANYTHING ABOUT KURAMA.


YOU DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING...
...AND THEN I SEE THAT? HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO REACT?
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU...
...BUT I DON'T THINK I DESERVE THIS.
I DON'T CARE HOW IT HAPPENED.
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TELL YOU.
FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS BUSY WITH MAKEUP WORK.
Hello, everybody!
Thank you for taking volume 3 into your hands!
I'm Ao Mimori, the artist
I generally write these segments without any real plan... What should I write about? I'll just doodle whatever comes to mind, so if you have time on your hands, grab a cup of tea and hang out with me
Tea
Speaking of tea, my dermatologist told me to drink rose hip tea for my skin. So I ran out and bought some... and it tastes like kelp. Is it just me? But I'm drinking it every day.
Since I work at home, I keep all kinds of drinks on hand. These days my fridge always contains acerola juice, soy milk, water, and milk to make hot cocoa.
I like cold oolong tea.

WHAT?!
I WASN'T LETTING HIM DO ANYTHING!
I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO GO!
KURAMA'S FRIENDS...
I DON'T CARE HOW IT HAP-PENED.
DON'T LET SOME OTHER GUY MOVE IN ON YOU!

NO!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
YOU WANT ME TO HANG OUT WITH HIM?
YOU PROBABLY WANNA BE OUT HAVING FUN.
WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT WITH KURAMA OR WHOEVER?
WHAT?
SO IT'S MY FAULT?
I'VE GOTTA KEEP STAYING AFTER SCHOOL--
--AND YOU PROBABLY WANNA BE OUT HAVING FUN.
RYU!
N, NO...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
THEN WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE.
CHAK
...
DING
DONG
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!
I'M ALWAYS ...
...ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU.
DAK
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
...
THEN I WILL!
YOU JERK!

IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER SINCE I LAST HEARD HIS VOICE.
WHAT?
BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN A DAY...
SAKURA?
IS RYU OKAY?
YOU TOOK CARE OF HIS INJURY, RIGHT?
UHP ...
RYUNO-SUKE!
CHAK
WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN AT ALL TODAY.
...
TUP
THAT'S ALL.
YEAH.
OKAY.
...
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO REMEDIAL CLASS, RIGHT?

NO WAY...
I HELD ON TO THIS LITTLE ITEM.
I HAPPENED TO FIND THEM.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
BUT...
HEY!
WHERE'D YOU GET THIS?
YOU DROPPED THAT NOTE AND A TICKET, DIDN'T YOU?

...THAT YOU WERE SEEING ANOTHER BOY.
...OTHERWISE RYU WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED...

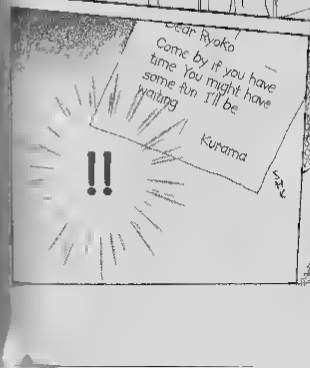
HE WAS HURT BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOU AREN'T EVEN CONCERNED?

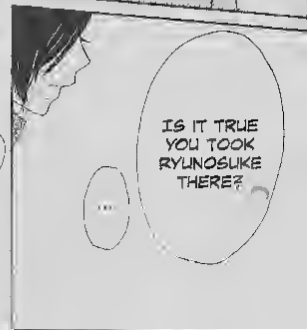
S. IKURA ...
...IT COULD GET INFECTED.

ACTUALLY ...
...I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.
UH...

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T!

EXCUSE ME ...
...BUT CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU WERE DOING AT THAT CLUB YESTERDAY?


Dear Ryoko
Come by if you have time. You might have some fun. I'll be waiting
Kurama
!!


IS IT TRUE YOU TOOK RYUNOSUKE THERE?
...

MAYBE I CAN'T BE RYU'S GIRL-FRIEND.
BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO BE YOU.
MAN...

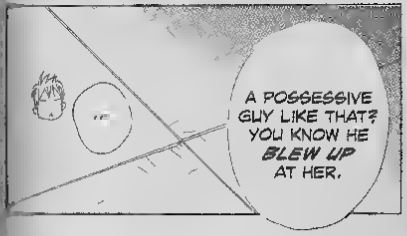
RYU IS ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.
HE CHERISHES YOU. YOU'RE HIS TREASURE.
BUT TO ME...
...IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT HIM.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
OKAY, YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON HIM, WHATEVER, BUT THIS IS—
BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE IT.
HUH?
THEN YOU...
..SHOWED THIS TO HIM?

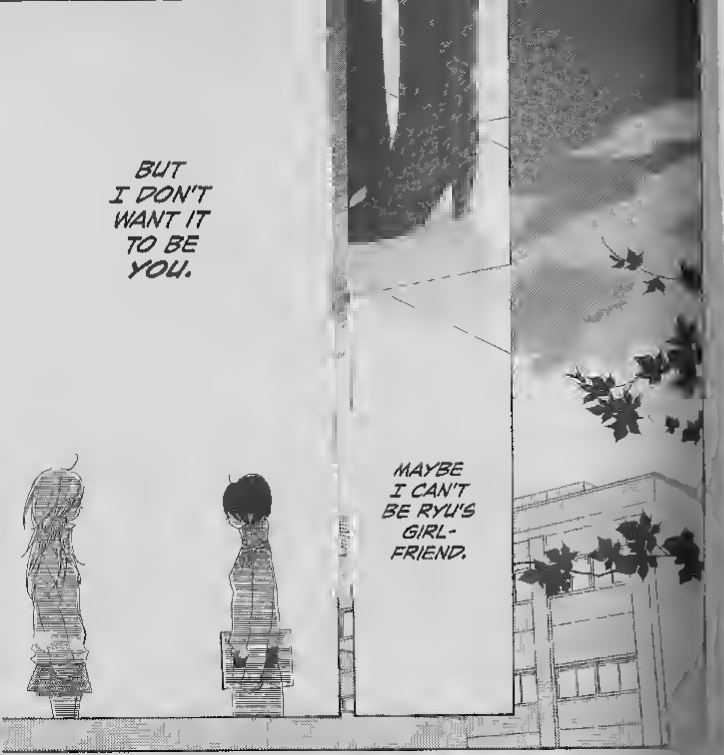
I'M SO PISSED.
MAN, THAT JERK...
ARE WE DONE HERE?
I'M NOT THROUGH WITH HIM YET.

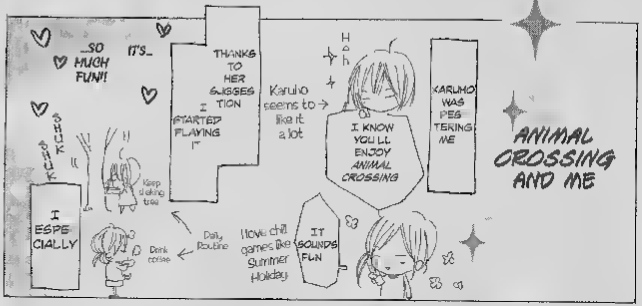
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GUY?
HE SHOVES KURA AND PUNCHES SHU...
HE SLAMMED INTO MY KIT DURING THE FIGHT TOO.
SCREWIN' UP OUR SHOW
RYON-RYON'S BOYFRIEND IS AN ASSHOLE.
SWAY

YEAH?
Well, duh.
Ya think so?
OF COURSE THEY DID.


A POSSESSIVE GUY LIKE THAT? YOU KNOW HE BLEW UP AT HER.

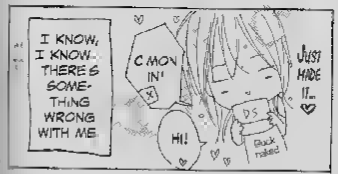
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THEY LEFT.
I HOPE THEY DIDN'T GET INTO A FIGHT OR ANYTHING.

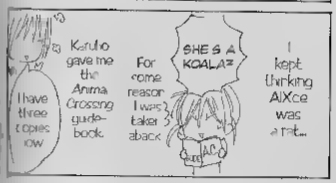

BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO BE YOU.
MAYBE I CAN'T BE RYU'S GIRL-FRIEND.


...SO MUCH FUN!!
IT'S...
THANKS TO HER SUGGESTION I STARTED PLAYING IT
Karuho seems to like it a lot
I KNOW YOU'LL ENJOY ANIMAL CROSSING
KARUHO WAS PESTERING ME
ANIMAL CROSSING AND ME
CHUCK CHUCK
Keep shaking that
I ESPECIALLY
Rank raise
Daily Routine
I love chill games like Summer Holiday
IT SOUNDS FUN

I just love her polite way of speaking
IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK
SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON I TALK TO WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING
IF SHE SAYS SHE'S MOVING I TALK HER OUT OF IT!
YOU CAN DO IT!
NO NO
I'LL GIVE IT SOME MORE THOUGHT
IF SHE ASKS FOR A FAVOR I GLADLY ACCEPT!
SURE!
WILL YOU DELIVER THIS TO ELVICE?

LOVE ALXCE
PREEMPTIVE CENSORING
For our official debut, I'm ready to die for alXce!!
Catchphrase
CENSOR


I KNOW, I KNOW- THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.
C'MON IN!
JUST HIDE IT...
HI!
Buck naked


I have three copies now
Karuho gave me the Animal Crossing guidebook.
For some reason I was taken aback
SHE'S A KOALA?
I kept thinking AlXce was a rat...

I ONLY HAVE ONE MINUTE!
I failed on the last time I have to be there today!
I overslept
DASH
Buck naked

THE OTHER DAY WHILE I WAS TAKING A BATH
AlXce is coming to play at 11:30!!

I...
I DIDN'T BETRAY RYUNOSUKE.
BESIDES...
...I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT ANY RIGHT TO LECTURE ME ABOUT TRUST.
HOW CAN YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO KEEP SEEING HIM?
...THAT'S WHY I WANT TO CHERISH HIM NOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DID HURT RYU IN THE PAST.
BUT...

AFTER WHAT YOU DID IN FRONT OF HIM...
...YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN BE WITH RYU?
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
CAN'T YOU SEE IT?
...AND GOT HIM HURT.
YOU BETRAYED HIS TRUST...
WHAT?

Matsu Katô told me the other day that she was done drinking tea and coffee and every other kind of drink. Now she only drinks hot water. I was shocked.

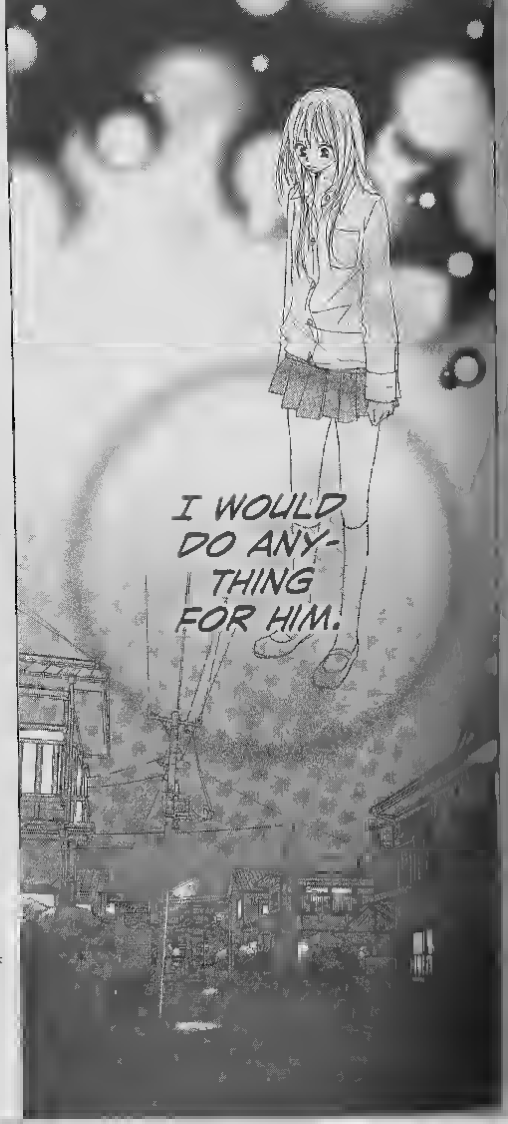
I mean, hot water?

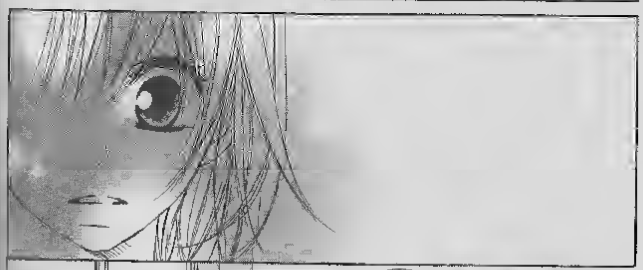
It reminded me of when Yasuko Sawaguchi played a nun who only drank hot water on Furuhata Ninzaburo. According to Matsu, "Hot water is the best thing for your body." How frail can you be?

Anyway -heh-

I haven't watched any TV drama series recently. Although I was never a regular viewer, I loved Furuhata. I even taped the guy who plays Imaizumi Shintaro on a late show.

Oh, but I love foreign TV series!! Like Beverly Hills, 90210 and ER and CSI and The X-Files and Dark Angel and True Calling and Nash Bridges. (I wonder if anybody's heard of that one...)



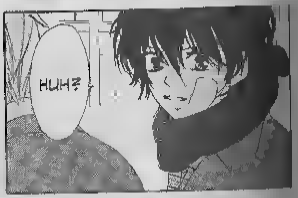


HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO REACT?
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
BIP
BIP
BIP
CLICK
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS UNAVAIL-ABLE..
...
SIGH
20:44
HE SHOULD BE DONE WITH HIS REMEDIAL CLASSES BY NOW.
I SHOULD'VE MADE UP WITH HIM...
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TELL YOU..
THEN I WILL!
...BUT INSTEAD I SNAPPED AT HIM..
ARGH
...IF HE WENT THERE AFTER SEEING THIS...
Woooo
...I CAN SEE HOW HE'D GET THE WRONG IDEA.
YOU BETRAYED HIS TRUST...
...AND GOT HIM HURT.
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS BETRAYING HIM...
BUT...
SHK
...

GEEZ... I WAS AFRAID YOU'D ALREADY HATCHED SOME EVIL PLAN.
I'm doing it for you, man!
YOU KIDDING? I'M COMING UP WITH IDEAS RIGHT NOW!
A Ryon-Ryon Reclamation Plan
HELP ME BRAIN-STORM!

...
JUST FORGET IT.

HA HA
WHAT A RELIEF.


HUH?

EVEN IF HER BOYFRIEND HADN'T SHOWN UP, I DON'T THINK SHE WAS GONNA SAY YES
SHE LOOKED ALL FLUSTERED.
Dr. Ryon's Reclamation Plan

YO, SHU.
WHAT?
WAH
WAH
YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T THROUGH WITH THAT GUY...

...BUT YOU WERE JUST TALKING OUT YOUR ASS, RIGHT?
!!
HEH
Just hanging out with nothing to do

I WONDER...
...WHAT HE'S DOING...

BET HE'S NOT A POPULAR ONE.
THAT GUY'S A HOST, HUH?
Heh
YOU'RE SUCH A DICK.
YEAH...
...
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, MAN!!
NAH... I'M OUT.
!!
WHAT'D YOU WORK SO HARD FOR?
THEY'RE PROBABLY SPLITTING UP RIGHT NOW! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE...
HUH?
YOU'RE JUST GONNA GIVE UP ON HER?
SORRY TO CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE.
Thanks for the help.
WUP
HE'S PROBABLY WORKING REAL HARD...
got a perm
Don't try to give yourself more hair than you've got
SERIOUSLY, YOU SHOULD HANG IN THERE..
You're late
DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
SORRY.
OH.

THEY'RE LEAVING
I DUNNO.
...ARE THEY FRIENDS?
UM
WE'RE FOLLOWING THEM.
LET'S GO!
GRP
WHERE DO YOU THINK?
GO WHERE?
THAT'S...
...RYON-RYON'S GUY.
HA HA HA
You're so mean
Dude, it looks like seaweed
WAK WAK WAK
OW!
WHAT?
!!
!!!
LOOK!

Oh hey
OMIGOD! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!!
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
YOU JUST DISAPPEARED FROM THE CLUB
I was so lonely ♡
GET OFF ME
NOT AFTER I GAVE YOU OUR HIGHEST RATING!
FOR REAL!
HOSTESSES!
DON'T YOU GIVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER!
THUP
He's cute ♡
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW HIM?
INTRODUCE ME! ♡
WHO IS IT ♥

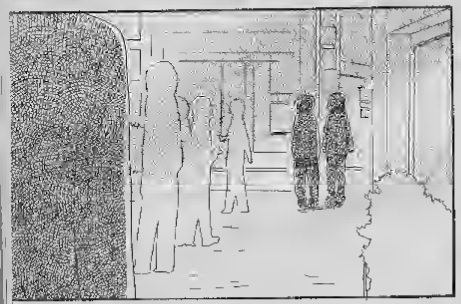
WAH
WAH

TOYS
SALE
DVD
DISCOUNT
VIDEO
Dumb Kids
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS PART OF TOWN BEFORE.
WHAT?
SHU...

... HA HA
WHAT IF HE'S A REGULAR AT SOME SLEAZY HOSTESS CLUB?
ME NEITHER. Not this far in, anyway
I KNOW!
NOW I'M EVEN MORE CURIOUS ABOUT HIM.
RYU? NO WAY!
OH, C'MON!
HE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, LIKE US.

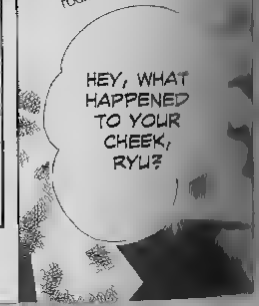
I'LL KISS IT BETTER. ♡
YEAH, THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.
WHY?
AFRAID OF A LITTLE KISS NOW?
POUT

CALL ME, OKAY?
YEAH, SURE.

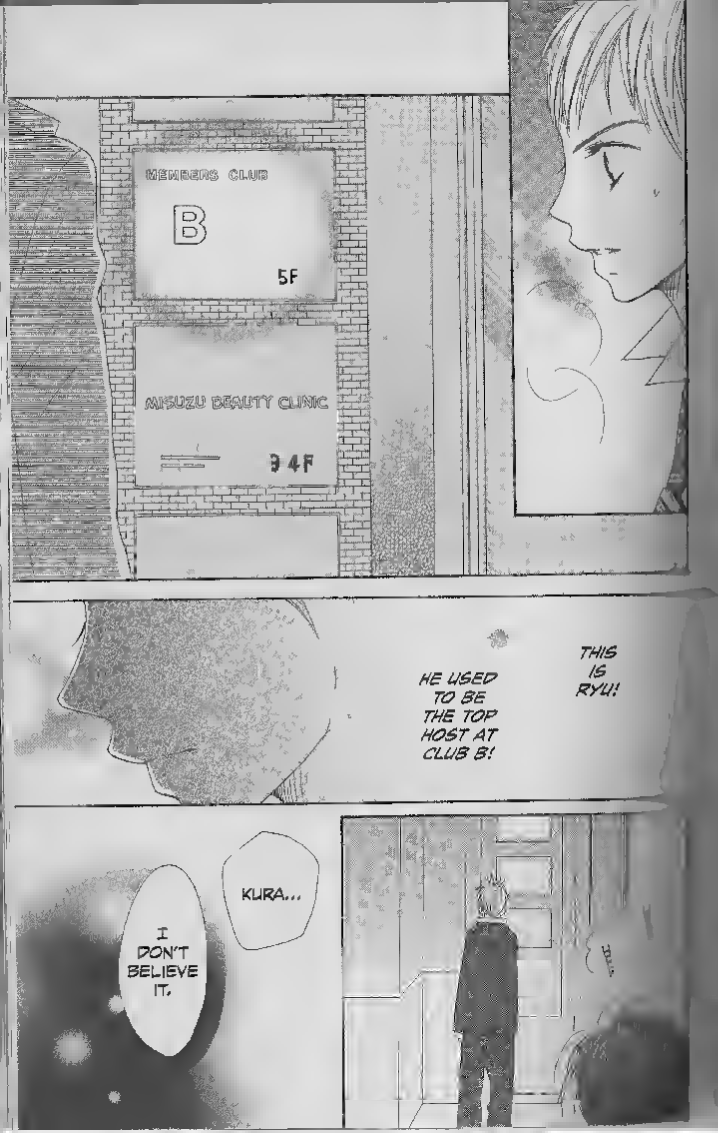


THIS IS WHY I HATE COMING HERE.
Aw shuddup
But I had to see this guy.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO SEE ME.
I figured we could hang in the back room

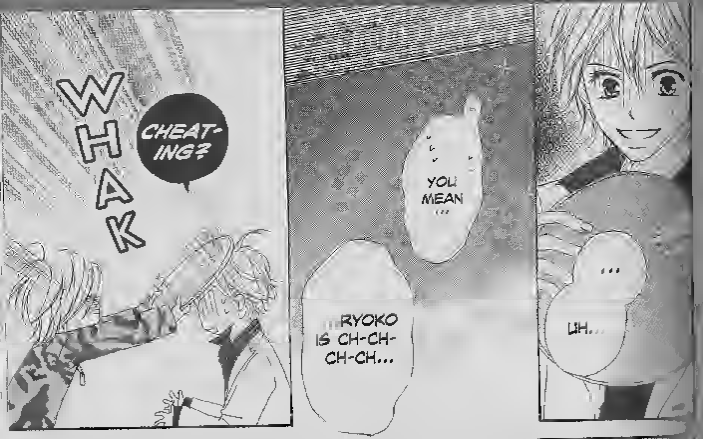

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CHEEK, RYU?

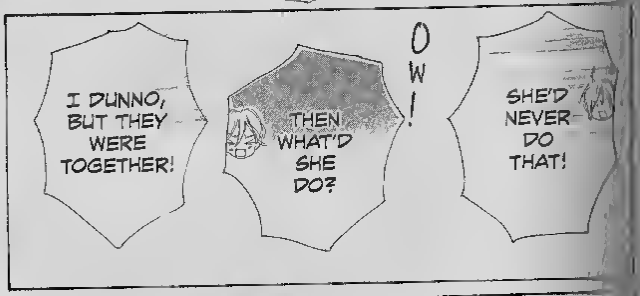
HE USED TO BE THE TOP HOST AT CLUB B! ♡
THIS IS RYU!

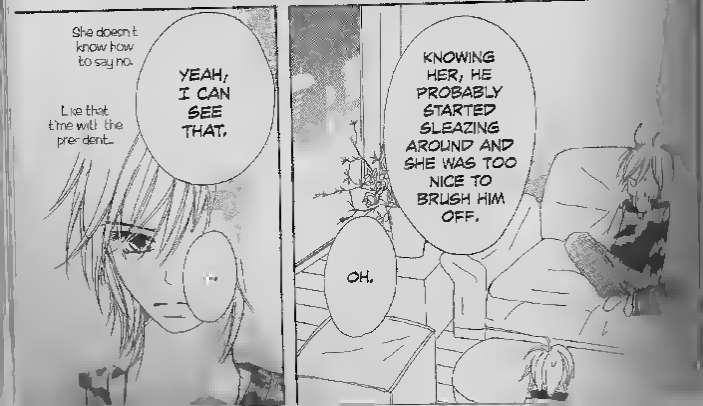

MEMBERS CLUB
B
5F
MISUZU BEAUTY CLINIC
4F
THIS IS RYU!
HE USED TO BE THE TOP HOST AT CLUB B!
KURA...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

HEY!
KURA!
KURA
DID YOU SEE

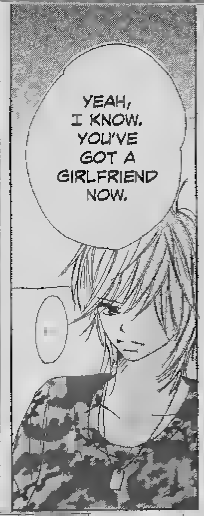
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, HUH?
DID YOU GUYS CHANGE THE PLACE?
YEAH, WE REDECOR-ATED.
We moved the lockers to the next room.
THAT CREEP CAN'T HAVE RYOKO.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT GUY!
I CAN'T LET THIS SLIDE.
...HAS NO IDEA.
I BET RYOKO ...
A FRIGGIN' HOST?
HE'S DATING RYOKO WHILE MACKING ON GIRLS FOR CASH?


WHAK
CHEATING?
YOU MEAN...
RYOKO IS CH-CH-CH-CH...
UH...


I DUNNO, BUT THEY WERE TOGETHER!
THEN WHAT'D SHE DO?
OW!
SHE'D NEVER DO THAT!


She doesn't know how to say no.
Like that time with the president.
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT.
KNOWING HER, HE PROBABLY STARTED SLEAZING AROUND AND SHE WAS TOO NICE TO BRUSH HIM OFF.
OH.

SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT?
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?


YEAH, I KNOW. YOU'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND NOW.

DUDE, YOU'RE STILL A LEGEND HERE.

PAF
YOU NUTS?
ANYTIME YOU WANNA COME BACK, WE'D BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU ♡

RYOKO...
...WAS SEEING SOME GUY BEHIND MY BACK.

HUH?
AS LONG AS SHE'S WITH ME..
...HER LIFE'S GONNA BE ROUGH.
MAYBE SHE'D BE HAPPIER WITH THE OTHER GUY.
...
...
RYU?
MAYBE SHE'S...
I DUNNO.
PAT
...SICK OF ME.
BUT IN THE END,
YOU'RE GONNA FORGIVE HER, RIGHT?
GO TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL AND GET THE FULL STORY.
I BET SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
It's bugging you right?

I DUNNO WHAT THE HELL I'M SAYING.
What-ever
RYU...
JUST KIDDING.
TAP

MORNING
MORNING.

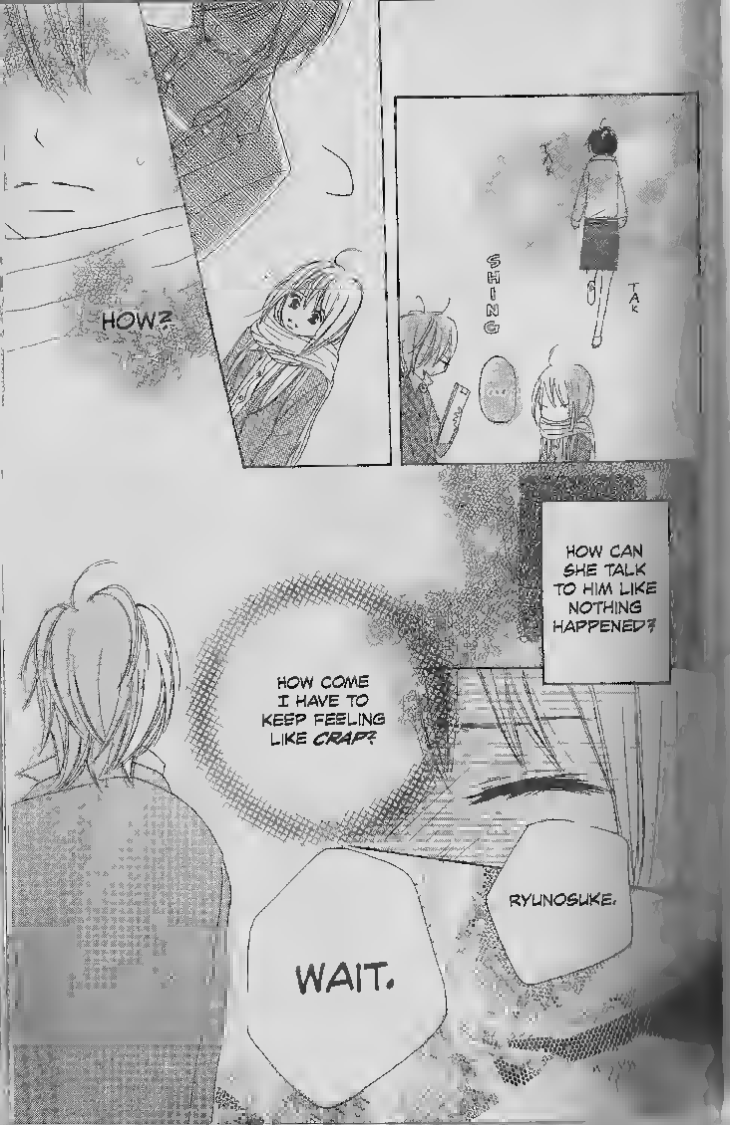
CHAK
LET ME TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING FIRST.
TAP TAP TAP
Mmm...
I'M GETTING KINDA HUNGRY.
LET'S GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT, OKAY?
HUH?
SURE...

WHAT?
I GOT ALL THE MATERIALS I THOUGHT MIGHT HELP YOU.
TAK
THIS SHOULD GET YOU THROUGH YOUR REMEDIAL CLASSES.
I DON'T NEED THIS.
THEN THROW IT AWAY.
JUST TAKE IT OFF MY HANDS.
I WANT TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN...

I WANT TO TALK TO HIM...
...BUT THIS IS SO MESSED UP...

HEY...

I DIDN'T GET THROUGH AT ALL LAST NIGHT.
HE DIDN'T CALL EITHER.
HOW CAN I FIX THIS?


HOW?
SHING
TAK
HOW CAN SHE TALK TO HIM LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED?
HOW COME I HAVE TO KEEP FEELING LIKE CRAP?
RYUNOSUKE.
WAIT.

GASP ...
I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
WELL.
KEEP UP THE HARD WORK!
HEY!
WAIT!
I do it wont this!

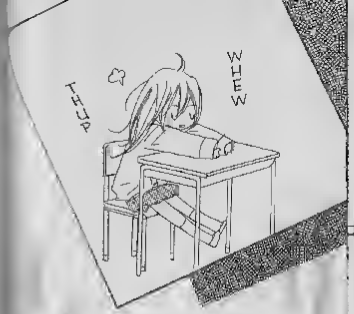
I'LL TEXT YOU WHEN I'M DONE.
OKAY.
BDMP
BDMP
...
THAT'S OKAY.
I'LL KILL TIME.
BDMP
WHY ...
BDMP
YEAH ...
...DO I HAVE TO FEEL...
...SO NERVOUS TALKING TO RYUNO-SUKE?
LATER.
I'll text you
OKAY.
BYE!

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...
...ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
CAN YOU...
...MEET ME AFTER SCHOOL?
SURE.
BUT I'VE GOT REMEDIAL CLASSES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TIME I'LL GET OUT.
YEAH.
IT COULD BE LATE.

HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER ME.

MAYBE...

...I SHOULD LOOK AFTER *HIM* TOO.



MAYBE I SHOULD'VE KEPT CALLING HIM ANYWAY...

HE'S HAD TO WAKE HIMSELF UP EVERY MORNING SINCE OUR FIGHT.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

...IZUMI'S RIGHT.

MAYBE...

RYOKO... I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
I'M...
...NOT GOING TO HANG OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE.
LISTEN...
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU SHOULD GO.
I REALLY APPRECIATE THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT ME.
BUT I CAN'T RETURN YOUR FEELINGS.
I LIKE MY BOYFRIEND, OKAY?

KURAMA!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
!!
Excuse me I'm looking at

I DON'T WANT TO...
...CAUSE HIM ANY MORE HEART-ACHE.
I'M SORRY.
BOW
GRP
?!
THAT GUY SUCKS! LEAVE HIM!
HUH?
HE SUCKS?

...HE'S A...A HOST!
WHAT?!
YOU MIGHT...
...NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT...
DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM THAT WAY!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!
LET ME GO!
I DO KNOW.

BDMP
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK?
BDMP
HOW DOES HE KNOW THAT?
BDMP
WHAT?!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST EITHER.
BUT IT'S TRUE.

HE'S A HOST.

OH.
SORRY.
JUST ...
THERE'S A PARK OVER THERE...
OKAY, FINE.
..LET GO OF MY HAND.
...
Then what happened?
And then
I SAW HIM LAST NIGHT IN SHINJUKU.
HA HA HA
SERIOUSLY?
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.
WHAT?
LET'S GO OVER THERE.
...WON'T BE DONE FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
RYUNOSUKE ..
YEAH, BUT...
.. WANT THIS TO GET AROUND, RIGHT?
YOU MIGHT NOT...
ALL RIGHT.
..AFTER DEALING WITH THIS GUY.
I'LL COME RIGHT BACK ...

TEXT
I'M DONE WITH CLASS
WHERE ARE YOU
TK
TK
TK
YO.
I'LL KILL TIME.
I'LL TEXT YOU WHEN I'M DONE.
...

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...
...ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
CHK
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
YES SIR.
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
SLAM
CAN YOU MEET ME AFTER SCHOOL?
CHAK

2 — 2

...MAYBE YOU'RE JUST SCARED SHE'S GONNA SAY YES.
...
YOU.
I CAME TO PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
WHAT THE HELL, DUDE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

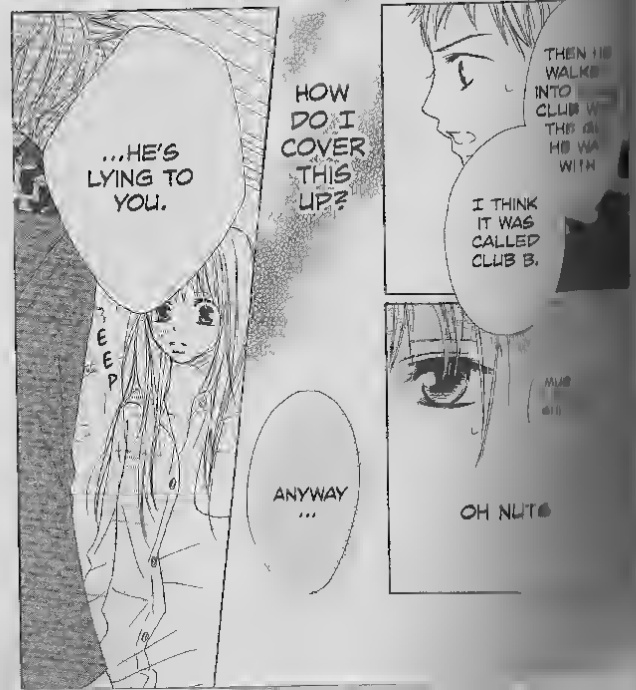
THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.

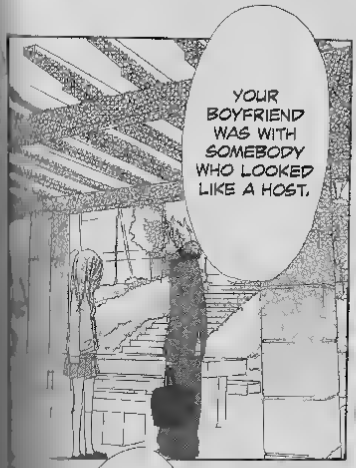
JUST HEAR ME OUT...
...RYU.

YOU STEPPED UP TO ME.
YOU THINK I WAS GONNA BACK DOWN?
ARE WE DONE HERE?
WHAT-EVER.
SHK
DON'T LET ME SEE YOU HERE AGAIN.
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT THE FIGHT ANY-MORE.

THAT GUY...
POW
...
...
RYU?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL YOU IN THE BACK ALLEYS, RIGHT?

HE SAW ALL THAT?
THEY CALLED HIM RYU. THEY SAID HE WAS A HOST.
HE WAS ALL FRIENDLY WITH THE HOSTESSES.

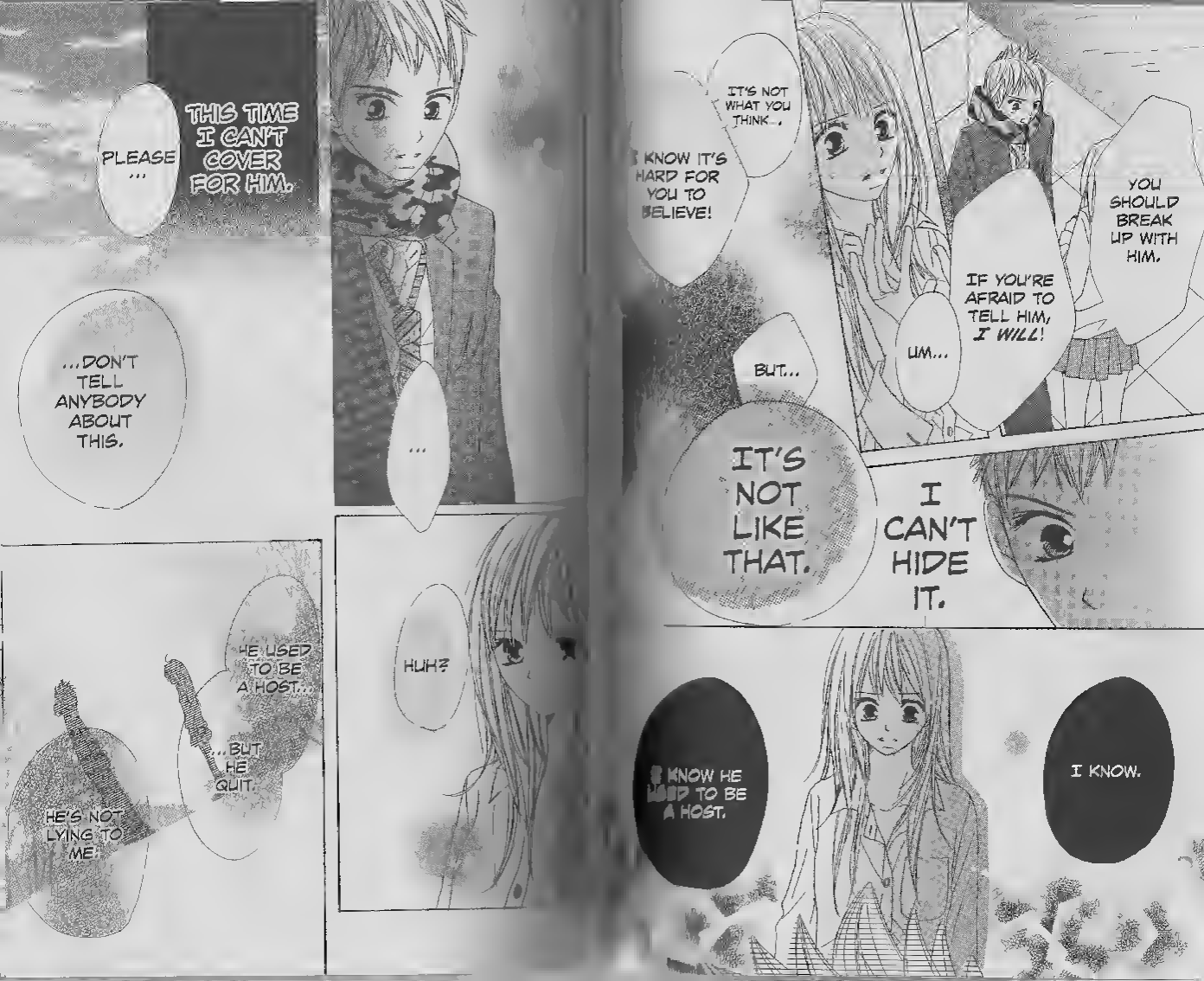

...HE'S LYING TO YOU.
HOW DO I COVER THIS UP?
ANYWAY ...
I THINK IT WAS CALLED CLUB B.
OH NUTS


YOUR BOYFRIEND WAS WITH SOMEBODY WHO LOOKED LIKE A HOST.

I JUST COULDN'T LET IT GO...

I KNOW WHAT I SAW.

I HAPPENED TO SEE HIM YESTERDAY.


I KNOW.
I KNOW HE USED TO BE A HOST.
I CAN'T HIDE IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
BUT...
UM...
IF YOU'RE AFRAID TO TELL HIM, I WILL!
YOU SHOULD BREAK UP WITH HIM.
I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO BELIEVE!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...
HUH?
...
...DON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS.
PLEASE ...
THIS TIME I CAN'T COVER FOR HIM.
HE'S NOT LYING TO ME.
..BUT HE QUIT.
HE USED TO BE A HOST...

IS THAT THE TYPE OF PERSON YOU ARE?

I...
...DIDN'T LIKE IT AT FIRST.
SMACK
I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER DATE SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.

YOU DON'T CARE THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND'S LIKE THAT?

HEY...
HOSTS ...
...GO OUT WITH WOMEN FOR MONEY, RIGHT?

...
PLEASE DON'T TELL.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

UM, YEAH.
...
YOU KNOW...
...AND YOU'RE STILL GOING OUT WITH HIM?
HUH?

BUT YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH A NORMAL GUY..
I'M NOT SAYING IT HAS TO BE ME.
...AND HAVE A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP.
...
EXCUSE ME?

NO WAY.
NOT A SLEAZE LIKE THAT.
BUT NOW I'M THE ONLY GIRL FOR HIM...
HE'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU.
GRR
YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF GIRL WHO'D GO OUT WITH A HOST.
...BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT. YOU'RE GOOD AND HONEST.
I'VE ONLY KNOWN YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

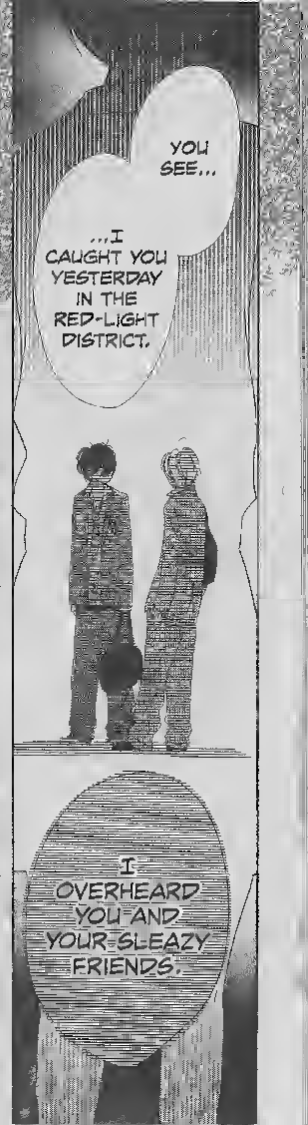
MAN...
...I WAS SHOCKED.
YOU ACT LIKE SUCH A NORMAL GUY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT YOU'RE REALLY A HOST.
GRRK
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...
...WHO I GO OUT WITH!
Let go!
RYOKO!
SHF
BACK ALLEYS?

GETTING PLAYED BY A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU.
...POOR RYOKO.

SHE'S THE INEXPERI-ENCED TYPE, RIGHT?
YOU TARGETED HER AND TOOK DVANTAGE OF HER.
YOU WANNA REPEAT THAT?
OH, COME ON.
YOU'RE A REAL PRO, HUH?
I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME HER FOR FALLING FOR YOUR LIES.

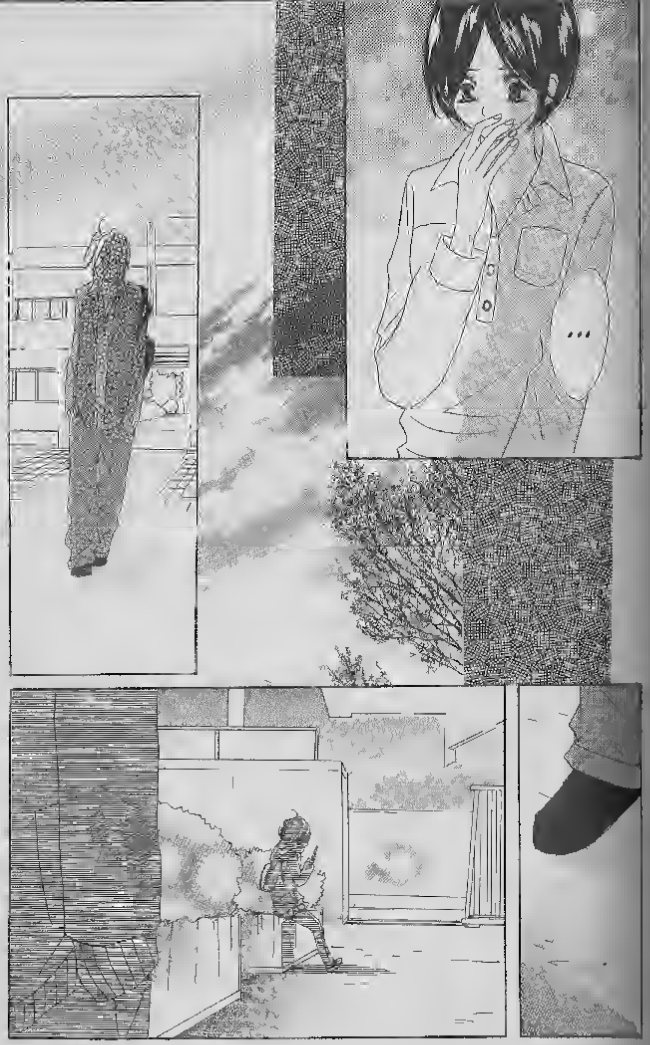
YOU PUT ON A BIG ACT FOR YOUR LITTLE GIRL-FRIEND...
DON'T TOUCH HER.
...THEN YOU RUN OFF AND FOOL AROUND WITH OTHER WOMEN BEHIND HER BACK.
I MEAN, WOW.
HOW LOW CAN YOU GET?

THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
NOT ME.
BUT...


YOU SEE...
...I CAUGHT YOU YESTERDAY IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT.
I OVERHEARD YOU AND YOUR SLEAZY FRIENDS.

...BUT LEAVE HER.
IF YOU CARE ABOUT HER, SET HER FREE.
...
I DON'T KNOW HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE ABOUT HER...
IT'S NOT A GOOD MATCH...
...YOU AND RYOKO.
SHE SHOULD BE WITH A DECENT GUY.
...INSTEAD OF AN OPERATOR LIKE YOU.
I WILL ABSOLUTELY NEVER EVER FALL FOR A GUY LIKE YOU!
AND I WILL ABSOLUTELY WIN YOUR HEART.

3
Twin Peaks is the foreign TV show I watch over and over the most
I just love it. I still watch tapes I recorded of the dubbed version without subtitles they used to show late at night
The part where Leland begins to lose his mind is so crazy (especially around the Sheep Song), I laugh every time I watch it. Ha ha! And Cooper's boss who wears a hearing aid... I forget his name. That guy is funny too. Actually, all the characters are pretty weird
It makes me want to drink coffee and eat some cherry pie every time I watch it
I love Sherry because she's so cute. I used to fantasize about being Sherry... You know, if only I was that hot
I love 24 too!! Especially Sherry, the president's wife!! She's a great villainess. I can't take my eyes off her. Hey, she's named Sherry too, huh?
...
OR I'LL CALL THE REST OF THE STAFF.
RYU.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
C'MON, CLEAR OUT.
HUH?
YOU WERE AT THE SHOW...
FOR REAL?!
PLEASE GO NOW.
WAIT.
YOU'RE A TEACHER HERE?
HEY, YOU! FROM M HIGH SCHOOL!
SHF
NO VISITORS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS!!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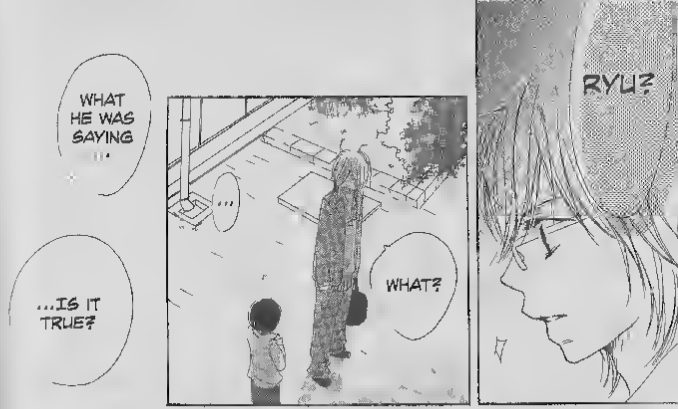

WHAT HE WAS SAYING...
...IS IT TRUE?
...
WHAT?
RYU?

ARE YOU...
...A HOST?

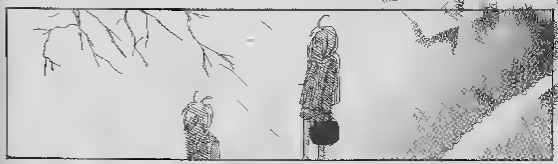
RYU!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
PFFT.

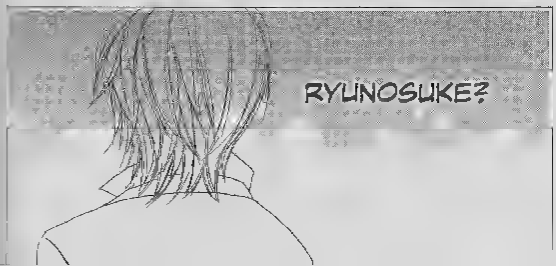
I'M SORRY.
YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BE UPSET.
ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR KURAMA.
BUT I REALLY W.S FORCED THERE.
RYUNO-SUKE?
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
I'M SORRY, OKAY?
I WON'T HANG OUT WITH HIM AGAIN.

IT'S NOT A GOOD MATCH...
...YOU AND RYOKO.
YOUR REMEDIAL CLASSES MUST'VE BEEN TOUGH.
YEAH.
HEY.
PERFECT TIMING.

RYUNO-SUKE
TAK
LATER.
'BYE.
I'M NOT ANGRY.
IF YOU'RE STILL ANGRY, SAY SO.
I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING.
ARE YOU SURE?
SO WE'VE MADE UP, RIGHT?

OKAY.
"OKAY"?
That's it?
LET'S GO HOME
I'll walk you
.. YEAH.




RYUNOSUKE?

'BYE, RYOKO!
LATER.
BYE
CAN I COME OVER TO YOUR PLACE TONIGHT?
HEY.
I TOTALLY NEED HELP WITH...
HUH
WE CAN WORK ON THAT REPORT TOGETHER.
USUALLY HE'D...
...HUG ME.
RYUNOSUKE'S...
...ACTING WEIRD.
2-2
YEAH.

SHU!
OKAY.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, GRAB THIS!
...WE'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL IN NO TIME, RIGHT?
WHY ONLY ME?
You're a good kid Shu but I can't have fights here
You've gotta work it off
SHU!
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU!
I'LL GET IT IN A

OKAY, I'LL TEXT YOU LATER
YEAH.
SURE.
REALLY?
WEIRD.
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY UP.
MAYBE HE'S STILL GETTING OVER THE FIGHT.
IF WE TALK AND HANG OUT A LOT...
OKAY!

...I THINK...
...IT'S MY FAULT.
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
IF IT IS TRUE
IS IT TRUE RYU IS WORKING IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT?
OFFICE
BOW
HUH?
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AT WORK.
BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
I ASKED AROUND YOUR SCHOOL UNTIL I TRACKED YOU DOWN.
HEY, SHU.
WHO'S THE BABE?
SHUT UP.
OKAY.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
I OVERHEARD WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!
IF THE SCHOOL FINDS OUT, HE'LL BE EXPELLED!
...
THAT'S UP TO HIM
I'LL DO ANYTHING.

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES...
...DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME.
SHE
DUDE!
GET OUTTA HERE!
HEY, SHE SAID SHE'D DO ANY-THING!
YOU REALLY THINK SHE'D DO THAT?
GO AHEAD.
NOW, NOW, SHU. C'MON.
YOU HEARD THE LADY
YOU'RE A TEACHER, RIGHT?
YOU OUGHTA BE THE ONE REPORT-ING HIM
KLAK
HUH?
THEN...
YES.
YOU'LL DO ANY-THING?
I'LL DO ANY-THING IF YOU'LL KEEP IT A SECRET.
...
HUH?
I'LL MAKE SURE HE KEEPS HIS MOUTH SHUT.
...WILL YOU LET ME DO YOU?

UH
IF I DO WHAT YOU SAY...
...YOU PROMISE HE'LL KEEP IT A SECRET?
THEN
HEY
WHAT'RE YOU
H-SSH

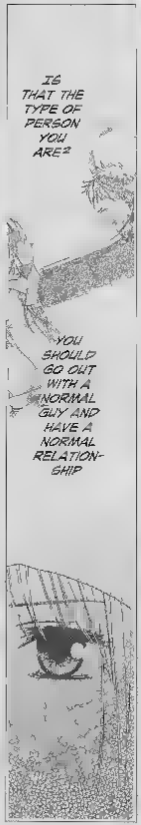
WILL YOU LET ME DO YOU?
I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
I'LL MAKE SURE HE KEEPS HIS MOUTH SHUT.

POWERPLUS

CRAK
DING DONG
BE CHEERFUL
BE CHEERFUL
FEP!
HERE!
SHOOF
302
FUJI
DONE WITH CLASSES
I M HOME

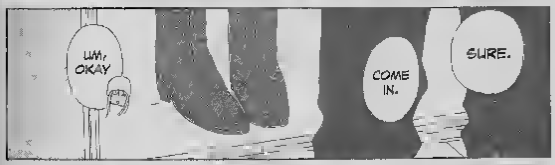
Coming in?
RYOKO?
OH YEAH

THANKS.


IS THAT THE TYPE OF PERSON YOU ARE?
YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH A NORMAL GUY AND HAVE A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP

BUT IT'S HARD...
...TO TALK ABOUT KURAMA RIGHT NOW.

WE CAN PIG OUT WHILE WE'RE WORKING ON THE REPORT.


UM, OKAY
COME IN.
SURE.

HE'S A HOST
I HAPPENED TO SEE HIM YESTERDAY.
STILL...
...I OUGHT TO TELL HIM ABOUT KURAMA...

SLAM
I HOPE I'M ACTING NORMAL.

STOP!
CHAKA
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?
GRP
!
WHY WOULD YOU TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY?
HE WAS JUST SCREWING AROUND!
WELL
HE SAID

OFFICE
...
IF YOU CARE ABOUT HER, SET HER FREE.

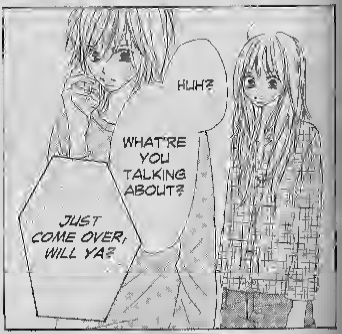
PROJECT MUCH, DONCHA?

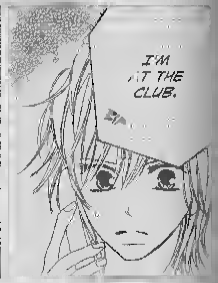
I WAS JUST MESSING WITH YOU 'CAUSE YOU BUSTED IN ON US.
BUT WHAT'S THE DEAL?
WHY DO YOU CARE WHAT RYU—
THUP
HUH?
THANK YOU...
...
YIKES.
DUDE...
RYU...
THANK YOU...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH HER EITHER—
WHAT'S WITH THIS CHICK?
DO SOME-THING.
LIKE WHAT?
FUJI
BRRRNG
YEAH?
BRRRNG
YOU DON'T USUALLY GET CALLS ON YOUR HOME PHONE
I KNOW
BRRRNG
BRRRNG

THEN SHE STARTED CRYING AND NOW SHE WON'T LEAVE.
SHE WANTED ME TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT YOU BEING A HOST AND STUFF.
SHE SHOWED UP AT MY WORK.
THE PETITE CHICK FROM LAST NIGHT.

...
RYUNOSUKE? IS SOMETHING WRONG?


HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
JUST COME OVER, WILL YA?

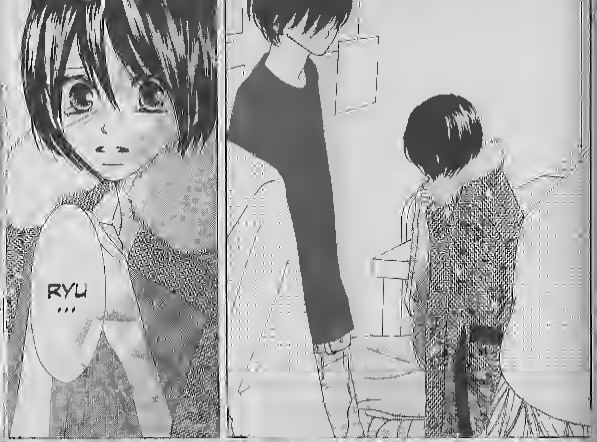

I'M AT THE CLUB.

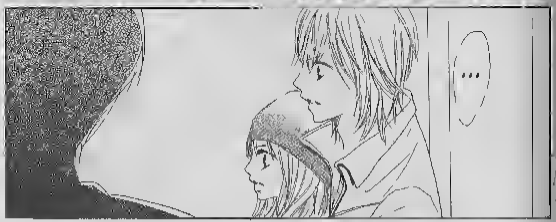
LOOK, YOUR TEACHER'S HERE.
CAN YOU COME PICK HER UP?

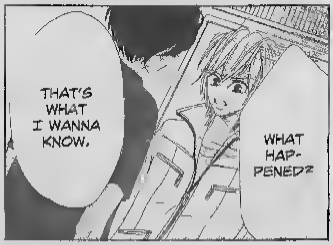
YOU'RE THE GUY FROM YESTER-DAY.
I KNEW IT.
IT WAS LISTED ON HER PHONE AS "RYU HOME."
HUH?

UH...
IS THIS RYU... THE HOST?

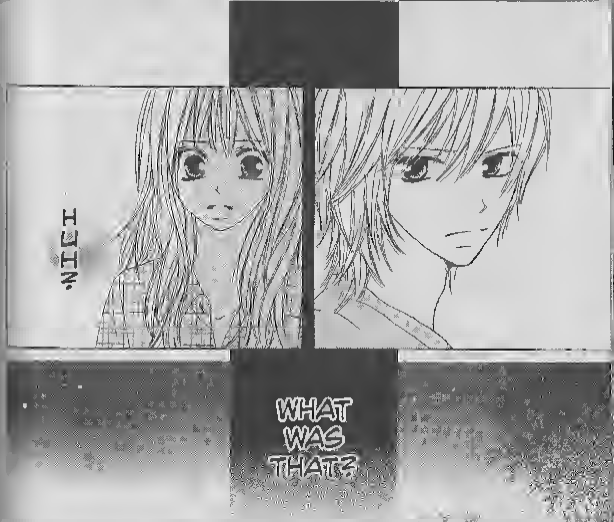
?


RYU
...

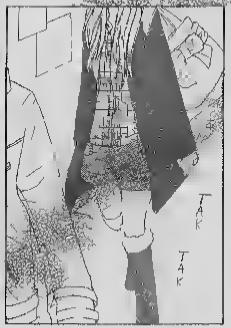

...

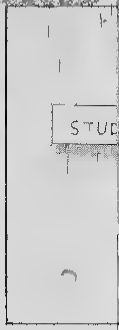

THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW.
WHAT HAP-PENED?

WHAT IS THIS?


HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?

OFFICE
CHAK


TAK
TAK


STUD

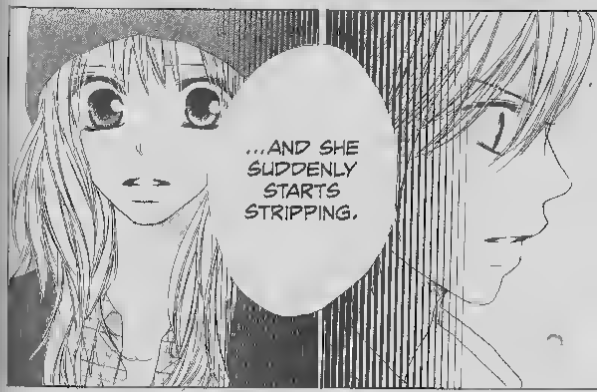
...I DIDN'T THINK SHE REALLY MEANT IT...
I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM
SHE DID SAY THAT.
BUT...

I'M SORRY, RYU.
CLAK

WHAT?!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS...
JUST GET HER OUT OF HERE

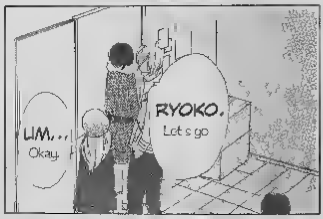
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS CHICK?
TAP

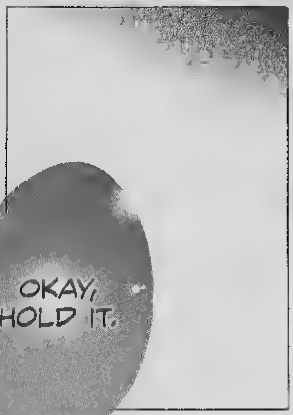
MY FRIEND ASKED HER TO BANG HIM, JUST JOKING AROUND...
SAYING SHE'D DO ANYTHING TO KEEP ME QUIET ABOUT YOU.
LIKE I SAID, SHE BARGED IN HERE OUTTA NOWHERE.


...AND SHE SUDDENLY STARTS STRIPPING.

BUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
RYU...


UM... Okay.
RYOKO. Let's go


OKAY, HOLD IT.

LATER.

SNIF
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE A MESS OF THINGS.
I'M SORRY.

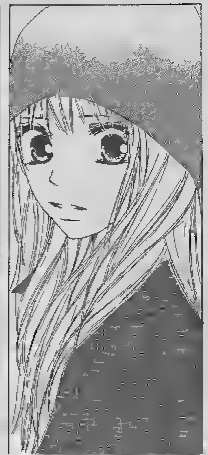
I CAN GET HOME MYSELF...

I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU.
I ONLY...

...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU GUYS?

HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CRAP I'M SEEING.

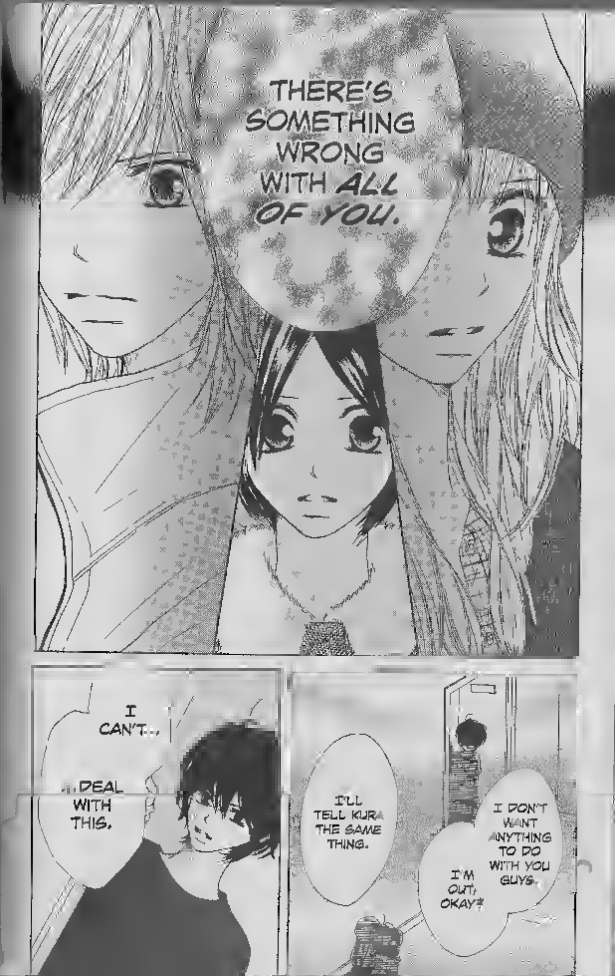


...WHY'RE YOU ALL SO SCREWED UP?

FROM AN OUTSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE,
,HONESTLY,

YOU'RE SECRETLY A HOST
SHE'S SOME KINDA CRAZY CRADLE ROBBER
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH THESE FREAKS

WHY'RE YOU ALL SO SCREWED UP?
SLAM
SHING
...


THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ALL OF YOU.
I CAN'T...
...DEAL WITH THIS.
I'LL TELL KURA THE SAME THING.
I'M OUT, OKAY?
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU GUYS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT?
HUH?
THE WHOLE THING
THIS SITUA-TION
THIS CRAZY RELATION-SHIP WE HAVE.
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH ALL OF YOU.
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING?

THANK YOU SO MUCH...
...FOR WALKING ME HOME
GOOD BYE
...FOR REAL.

Anyway, I watch my favorite TV shows and movies over and over I'm the same way with manga

Another thing I'm into right now, since it's cold out, is bath powder I really like this scent called salt germanium

Okay, I think I'll end it here Thank you for reading my boring stories

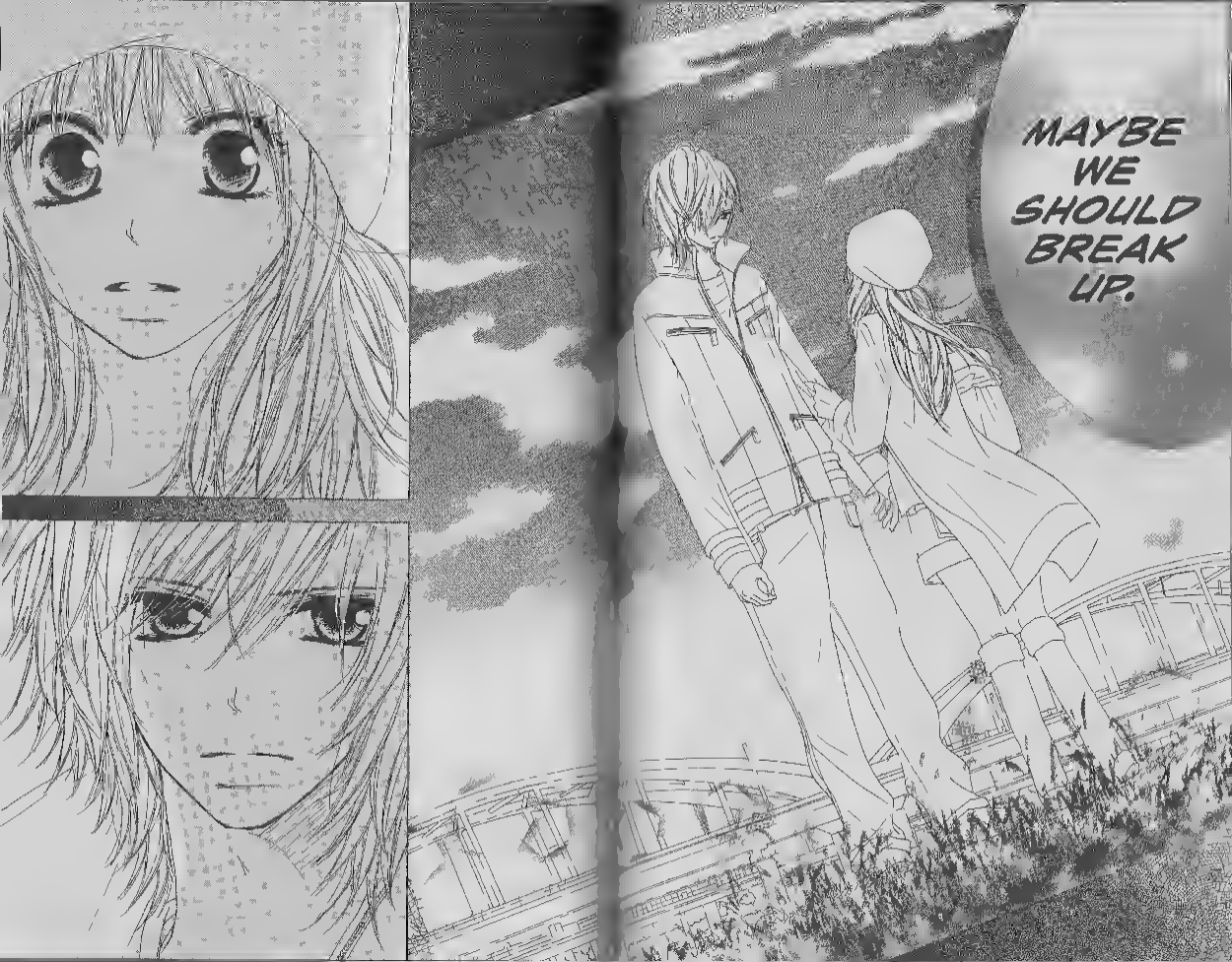
I really didn't have much to say this time

I look forward to seeing you in volume 10

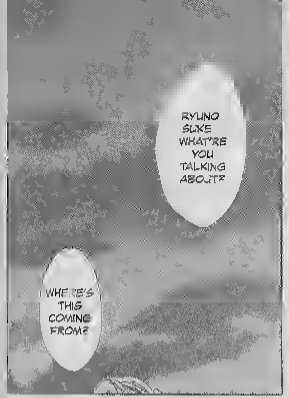
Ao Mimori

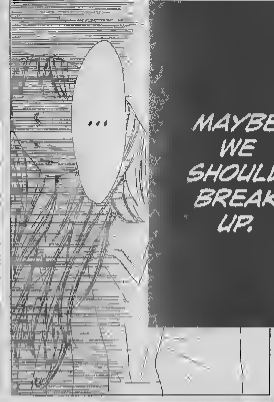
HUH.
WHAT?
RYOKO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT?
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING BACK THERE?
THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.
GRP
LOOK AT ME AND EXPLAIN IT TO ME...
I MEANT
WHAT I SAID


MAYBE WE SHOULD BREAK UP.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE THING WITH IZUMI, DON'T
IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
IT'S NOT GONNA WORK OUT.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH...


RYUNO SUKE WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM?

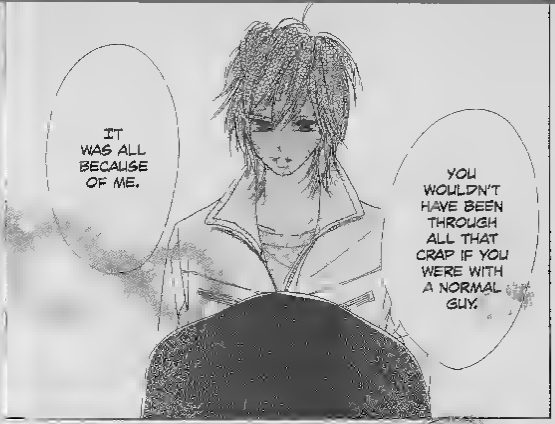

...
MAYBE WE SHOULD BREAK UP.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S OUT OF NOWHERE.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE.
I DON'T GET IT.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE WITH A GUY LIKE ME.

I WON'T LEAVE YOU.

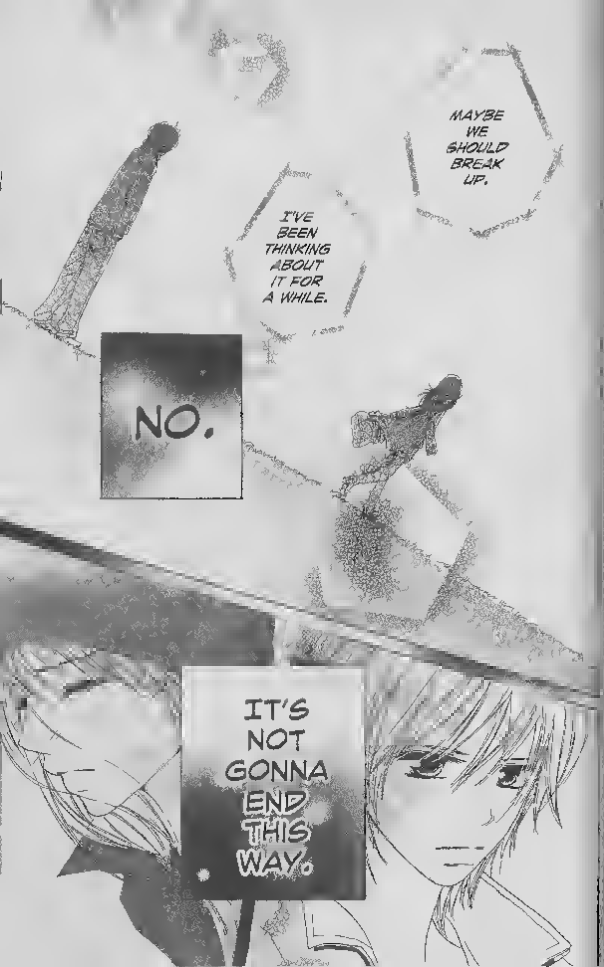
SO WHAT IF IT'S NOT PERFECT? SO WHAT IF IT'S NOT NORMAL?
AS LONG AS I'M OKAY WITH IT, WHO CARES WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK?


IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THROUGH ALL THAT CRAP IF YOU WERE WITH A NORMAL GUY.

...AND HAVE A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP.
YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH A NORMAL GUY.

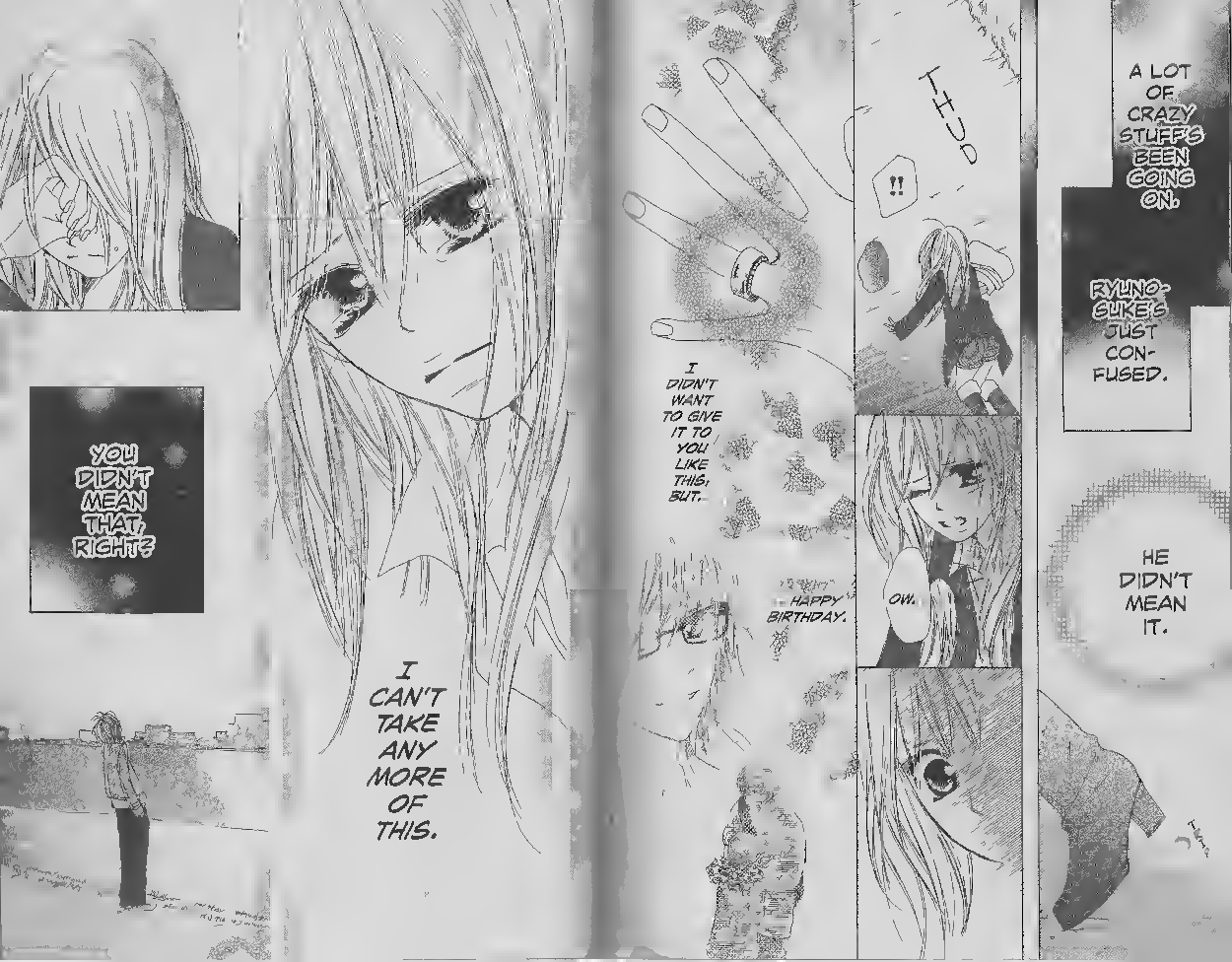
NO.

THIS ISN'T ANY GOOD FOR YOU.
...


MAYBE WE SHOULD BREAK UP.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE.
NO.
IT'S NOT GONNA END THIS WAY.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S GONE DOWN, I STILL LIKE YOU.
I'M NOT GONNA LEAVE YOU.

TUP


YOU DIDN'T MEAN THAT, RIGHT?
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE IT TO YOU LIKE THIS, BUT.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
OW.
!!
A LOT OF CRAZY STUFF'S BEEN GOING ON.
RYUNOSUKE'S JUST CONFUSED.
HE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

To Be Continued

Shojo Beat
MANGA FROM THE HEART

THE REAL DRAMA BEGINS IN...

B.O.D.Y.

Dear Valentine

You saw me at that club last night
And then you got into a fight.
I tried to make it up to you
But suddenly things aren't all right

I didn't even want to go
And now I hurt more than you know
You really want to say we're through?
Please tell me that the answer's no!

Be mine!

Everyone thinks 16-year-old Ryoko has weird taste in guys because she can't stop drooling over Ryunosuke, the strong silent type who sits next to her in class. When she discovers he works for a host club—where women actually pay men to date them—will she finally wise up? Only one thing's for sure in ***B.O.D.Y.***—you can't put a price on love!

9

Story & Art by

Ao Mimori

She could hire him to date her, but she'd rather win his heart.